

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-32 and 35-47 were presented for examination and were rejected. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 46 and 47. Applicants hereby amend claims 1, 4-13, 17, 19-28, 32, 35-43 and 47, cancel claims 2-3, 14-15, 18, 29-30, 33-34 and 45-46, and add new claims 48-58. In particular, the allowable subject matter indicated in dependent claim 46 have been incorporated into independent claims 1, 17 and 32. In addition, dependent claim 47 has been rewritten into independent form and the allowable subject matter indicated in claim 47 incorporated into new independent claims 51 and 55 (corresponding to the previous form of the independent claims 17 and 32). No new matter has been introduced. Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1, 4-13, 16, 17, 19-28, 31, 32, 35-44 and 47-58 will be currently pending in this application, of which claims 1, 17, 32, 47, 51 and 55 are independent. Applicants submit that claims 1, 4-13, 16, 17, 19-28, 31, 32, 35-44 and 47-58 are in condition for allowance.

The following comments address all stated grounds of rejection. Applicants traverse all rejections and urge the Examiner to pass the claims to allowance in view of the remarks set forth below.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 4-6, 16-21, 31, 32, 35-37 and 44-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,772,347 to Xie et al. ("Xie") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0250124 to Chesla ("Chesla"). Claims 7-15, 22-30 and 38-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Xie in view of Chesla and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2005/0086206 to Balasubramanian et al. ("Balasubramanian"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Applicants submit that Xie, Chesla and Balasubramanian,

alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every element of the claims as amended. Upon entry of the current amendment, Applicants submit that claims 1, 4-13, 16, 17, 19-28, 31, 32, 35-44 and 47 are patentable and in condition for allowance.

Applicants hereby cancel claims 2-3, 14-15, 18, 29-30, 33-34 and 45, mooting the rejections with respect to these claims. In addition, Applicants amend independent claims 1, 17 and 32 to incorporate the allowable subject matter indicated in claim 46, mooting the rejections with respect to these claims. In addition, dependent claim 47 has been rewritten into independent form and incorporates the allowable subject matter indicated for this claim. Claims 4-13 and 16 are dependent upon and incorporate all the patentable subject matter of independent claim 1, as amended. Claims 19-28 and 31 are dependent upon and incorporate all the patentable subject matter of independent claim 17, as amended. Claims 35-44 are dependent upon and incorporate all the patentable subject matter of independent claim 32, as amended. Therefore, dependent claims 4-13, 16, 19-28, 31 and 35-44 incorporate the allowable subject matter identified by the Examiner.

For the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that each of the pending claims 1, 4-13, 16, 17, 19-28, 31, 32, 35-44 and 47 incorporates allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner, and thus are patentable and in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 4-13, 16, 17, 19-28, 31, 32 and 35-44 under 35 U.S.C. §103 and to allow each of the pending claims

NEW CLAIMS INCORPORATE ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

New independent claims 51 and 55 (corresponding to the previous form of the independent claims 17 and 32 respectively) incorporate the allowable subject matter indicated in claim 47. New claims 48-50 (corresponding to claims 20, 21 and 31 respectively) are dependent upon and incorporate all the patentable subject matter of independent claim 47, as amended. New claims 52-54 (corresponding to claims 20, 21 and 31 respectively) are dependent upon and incorporate all the patentable subject matter of independent claim 51. New claims 56-58 (corresponding to claims 20, 21 and 31 respectively) are dependent upon and incorporate all the patentable subject matter of independent claim 55. Therefore, dependent claims 48-50, 52-54 and 56-58 incorporate the allowable subject matter identified by the Examiner.

For the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that each of the pending claims 48-58 incorporates allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner, and thus are patentable and in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the aforementioned amendments and arguments, Applicants contend that each of the Examiner's rejections has been adequately addressed and all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and allowance of all of the pending claims.

Should the Examiner find that additional minor claim amendments are required to place the pending claims in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the Applicants' attorney to arrange for a supplementary amendment or an Examiner's amendment. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorney would expedite

prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

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